

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8  
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the  
State Flag of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, throughout the recorded history of the world, political entities, whether they be tribes, kingdoms, empires, republics or other groups, have adopted as visible symbols of identity and unity, various flags, banners and standards; our own nation has been no different, having adopted a national flag, along with the various flags adopted by the several states and territories, as well as by many municipalities; and

WHEREAS, LeRoy Reeves of Johnson City, then serving as a Captain in Company F, Third Infantry in the Tennessee national Guard, submitted a design for a State Flag of Tennessee to the Tennessee General Assembly; his design was adopted by the enactment of Chapter 498 of the Public Acts of 1905 on April 17<sup>th</sup> of that year; and

WHEREAS, although there had been a failed attempt to adopt a state flag in 1861 and a design for a flag had been approved by joint resolution in 1897 for the Centennial Exposition, the 1905 enactment was the only statutory adoption of a state flag; and

WHEREAS, Captain Reeves offered the following description of his design: *The three stars are of pure white, representing the three grand divisions of the state. They are bound together by the endless circle of the blue field, the symbol of being bound together in one – an indissoluble trinity. The large field is crimson. The final blue bar relieves the sameness of the crimson field and prevents the flag from showing too much crimson when hanging limp. The white edgings contrast more strongly with the other colors;* and

WHEREAS, Captain Reeves himself raised the flag over the Armory in Johnson City in August 1905, the first official hoisting of the new state symbol; the widely recognized design not only graces the State Capitol in Nashville and many other state buildings and schools, but has

been and continues to be flown by individual Tennesseans at their residences and has been taken by citizens of this state to various parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, the first flag flown over the Armory in Johnson City now resides in the Tennessee State Museum, having been willed to the State of Tennessee by Captain Reeves, along with another copy which he donated to the Tennessee Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, an Attorney in practice with his father in 1905, LeRoy Reeves later embarked upon a distinguished military career, joining the regular United States Army following World War I, serving in the Judge Advocate General's Office and retiring with the rank of Colonel in 1940; and

WHEREAS, Reeve's spare but evocative and symbolically potent composition meets most of the standards for good flag design, being limited to three colors and relatively few elements; and

WHEREAS, as we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of our State Flag, it is fitting that we pause to commemorate that occasion and to honor the proud symbol of our statehood and its designer; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Tennessee State Flag, express our gratitude to and honor the memory of its designer, LeRoy Reeves, whose strong and evocative composition continues to remind us of the values we share as Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.